

MINUTES OF THE RIVERSIDE AVENUE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING

9th August 2012

Apologies:

Nikki Ellis, Sandra Callear, Rada Juric, Kay Mingay, Elka Bhatt, Carol Fitzsimmons

Present:

Dave Hughes, Phil Summerlin, Darren Payne, Linda Payne, Mick Dunsden, Rada Juric, Doug Ball, Rob Urwin, Mina West, Steve Foreman,

Update on previous minutes :

Bank: The bank accounts are up and running and money is able to be transferred between them by Linda/Dave

Newsletter: content was discussed and Phil will distribute when completed

Gravel Path: has now been cleared. Thanks to all those who gave their time for this.

Collection of money: from residents continues with a good initial response, see below.

Estimates for Road repairs:

Phil reported on result of a meeting with a concreter repair specialist. He walked the road with Tony Deller of TES who is going to prepare a quotation based on the urgency of the repairs needed. There were various issues with the road surface, some were serious and other less so, but it was Tony's opinion that they could all be repaired without a major resurfacing task. His intention is to mark up the road in order of importance and give us the relevant quotations. He has been busy lately, but Phil reminded him last week about the quote and he has indicated that we should get it this month.

Linda has stated that she may know a company who are willing to get us another quotation as well.

STOP PRESS: Tony has now surveyed and marked up the road, just waiting for estimate now.

Action: Phil & Linda

Report on payments made by residents and non-payers:

Linda reported a good response to letters sent out asking for funds with many people setting up standing orders. Unfortunately the bank statements rarely show the house name as a reference and Linda is having problems reconciling payments with the household. This is very frustrating and it was felt that we need to get a mechanism in place where we can get up to date 'mini-statements' at any time we need them. This is not possible at the moment

due to the multiple signatories on the account. Dave is to speak to our bank manager to try and resolve this.

It was also felt that it is too early to think about action against non-payers as once we have the estimates for repairs we will call an AGM and put our proposals to the residents. Hopefully once agreements and even repairs have been arranged it will encourage those who have not paid so far to contribute to the funds.

Action: Dave

Access to river and Trustees:

The problem of what to do about the access to the river was discussed again and the fact that only one surviving trustee is left. We were unsure what the implication of no surviving trustees will make, but as an organisation we are reluctant to take responsibility for it. It is overgrown and unusable at the moment and there seems little enthusiasm to clear it, bearing in mind the small amount of use it would probably get. It has no residual use for people backing onto the river save as a slipway, but it would take a vast amount on money and effort to get it usable for that purpose. Couple this with the fact that it would have to be available for the whole of Keyzers estate and public liability insurance would be essential, we felt it makes whole project almost not really worth considering. It does need a little clearing though and it was decided to get a working party organised to clear some of the worst undergrowth before it gets out of hand. Steve and his neighbour have paid £400.00 in the past to have some self seeded Ash trees removed and we are anxious not to let it get too far.

Action: Committee

Problems with Pumps at the Thames Water pumping station:

Steve has done some sterling work keeping the pressure (No pun intended!) on Thames water to resolve the issues with the unreliable pumps adjacent to the Gravel path to Great Meadow. These have failed a number of times and Phil wrote to Thames water on behalf of RaRa asking for an explanation. He finally got a response some 3 weeks later in the shape of a phone call, but since discovered that Steve had made much more progress and even had the ear of a secretary to Martin Baggs, CEO at Thames water. It was therefore felt we should let Steve deal directly with Thames Water on behalf of RaRa and to keep the committee informed, which he has kindly agreed to do.

Action: Steve

Constitution and RaRa rules:

The rules and constitution of the Riverside Avenue Residents Association were agreed and signed off by the Chairman, Dave Hughes

AGM

It was agreed that as soon as we have some estimates for the repairs to the road that we should organise an AGM and present our findings to the residents for comments and debate.

Update on B1 planning application and the proposed development of 'The Chimes'

A petition opposing the B1 change of use was delivered to the local planning office by Fanos, and Phil had confirmation from Robert Furneaux of Planning Support (on behalf of Mrs Jill Shingler - Principal Planning Officer) via email that it had been received and would be taken into consideration before a decision was made whether to grant the B1 permission. He was assured that should the application need to be heard at committee, they have promised to email him and let him know. If it is to be heard at committee, there is an opportunity for an objector to address the members.

Phil has had some email dialogue with Kevin Ellerbeck of C & P Property Lettings, the long leasehold owner and current occupier at Chimes who is proposing the housing development of the site. Kevin was invited to attend our AGM and he has accepted the invitation to put his case to the residents of Riverside Avenue. It was felt by the committee that a housing development is preferable to industrial use, but the density of the houses we deemed too great. Phil will continue to keep in touch with Kevin Ellerbeck and report back to the committee with any new developments, however as no planning application has been made in respect of this matter it is far too early to formulate any plan of action.

Newsletter Content

The perennial subject of what to do about speeding was discussed again and the committee thought a piece in the newsletter pointing out that there have been three accidents this year already, one resulting in a car being 'written off'

Action: Phil

Date for next meeting: To Be Confirmed

Minutes Approved by.....

Signature.....

Date.....

Any outstanding points.....

To carry over?